

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method for enabling communications by a user having multiple ~~identities from~~ accounts with a single communications service, the method comprising:

displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several ~~identities~~ accounts of the user, ~~user with the communications service~~, each list including other identities with whom the user communicates using the ~~identity~~ account to which the list corresponds;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the several ~~identities~~ accounts of the user, of a particular source ~~identity~~ account from which to initiate an electronic communication;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of identities corresponding to the particular source ~~identity~~ account selected by the user, of ~~another a~~ particular identity to whom to send the electronic communication; and

sending the electronic communication to the ~~other~~ identity such that the electronic communication is identified to the ~~other~~ particular identity as being sent from the particular source ~~identity~~ account selected by the user.

16. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 wherein the multiple ~~identities~~ accounts of the user are linked using linking logic based on a remote server.

17. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 16 further comprising offering the user a list of potential ~~identities~~ accounts to which a link from the multiple ~~identities~~ accounts may be created, wherein the list of potential ~~identities~~ accounts is created based on relationships between the potential ~~identities~~ accounts and the multiple ~~identities~~ accounts known to exist within the remote server.

18. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 further comprising receiving a response to the electronic communication from the other particular identity and addressed to the particular source ~~identity~~, account.

19. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 further comprising:  
logging on to the single communications service using a first ~~identity~~ account of the user that differs from the particular source ~~identity~~, account; and  
in response to logging on to the single communications service using the first ~~identity~~ account of the user, automatically being logged on to the single communications service for the particular source ~~identity~~, account.

20. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 further comprising displaying indications of the several ~~identities~~ accounts of the user in the single graphical user interface.

21. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 20 further comprising displaying the lists of other identities associated with each of the several ~~identities~~ accounts of the user in the single graphical user interface.

22. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 further comprising, responsive to an addition of a new identity to the list for one of the several ~~identities~~ accounts of the user, adding the new identity to the lists for the other of the several ~~identities~~ accounts of the user.

23. (Currently amended) A graphical user interface for facilitating communications by a user having multiple accounts with a single instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising one or more window interfaces that are structured and arranged to enable:

a display portion configured to make perceivable ~~multiple identities of a user from a single electronic communication service, and to make perceivable one~~ two or more instant messaging participant lists that contact lists, wherein each have instant messaging contacts list includes one or more constituent instant messaging participants identities and [[that]] each [[are]] instant messaging contacts list is associated with one of the multiple ~~identities~~ accounts of the user; and

[[a]] one or more visual indicator indicators that [[is]] are configured to display the current logon status of the instant messaging ~~participants from~~ identities included in the instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts lists [[of]] associated with the multiple ~~identities~~ accounts of the user; and

wherein at least one instant messaging ~~participant~~ identity from one of the instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts lists associated with a first ~~identity~~ account of the multiple ~~identities~~ accounts of the user is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user, and

wherein at least one instant messaging ~~participant~~ identity from one of the instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts lists associated with a second ~~identity~~ account of the multiple ~~identities~~ accounts of the user also is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user.

24. (Previously Presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable a display of an instant message addressed to one of the multiple identities of the user.

25. (Currently amended) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of [[all]] additional of the multiple

~~identities~~ accounts of the user in response to a sign on of one of the multiple ~~identities~~ accounts of the user.

26. (Currently amended) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of ~~[[all]]~~ additional of the multiple ~~identities~~ accounts of the user in response to a sign on of any one of the multiple ~~identities~~ accounts of the user.

27. (Currently amended) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for each of the multiple ~~identities~~ accounts of the user.

28. (Currently amended) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for one of the multiple ~~identities~~ accounts of the user, wherein the preferences are applied globally to the other ~~identities~~ accounts of the user.

29. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several ~~identities~~ accounts of the user comprises displaying a single graphical user interface that is configured to:

enable the user to select a particular list for a particular one of the several ~~identities~~ accounts of the user; and

in response to a selection by the user of the particular list for the particular ~~identity~~, account, display the particular list for the particular ~~identity~~ account selected by the user.

30. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several ~~identities~~ accounts

of the user comprises concurrently displaying lists for each of at least two identities accounts of the user.

31. (Currently amended) A method for linking multiple identities accounts of a user ~~from for~~ a single communications service, the method comprising:

maintaining, for a user of a single communications service having multiple identities accounts for use in communicating with other users within the single communications service, a first contacts list corresponding to a first account of the user, the first contacts list including one or more identities associated with one or more other users and enabling the user to communicate with the other users associated with the identities included within the first contacts list;

maintaining, for the user, a second contacts list corresponding to a second account of the user, the second contacts list being separate from the first contacts list, including one or more additional identities associated with one or more additional users, and enabling the user to communicate with the additional users associated with the additional identities included within the second contacts list;

authenticating [[a]] the first identity account of the user, the first identity of the user having a participant list that includes identities associated with one or more other users and that enables the user to communicate with the other users associated with the identities of the first participant list using the first identity of the user;

authenticating [[a]] the second identity account of the user, the second identity of the user having a second participant list that includes identities associated with one or more other users and that enables the user to communicate with the other users associated with the identities of the second participant list using the second identity of the user; and

creating an association between the first identity account of the user and the second identity account of the user, wherein the association between the first identity account of the user and the second identity account of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first identity account of the user and the second identity account of the user in response to authentication of both the first identity account of the user and the second identity account of

the user, the single graphical user interface being configured to accommodate the first ~~participant~~ contacts list corresponding to the first ~~identity account~~ identity account of the user and the second ~~participant~~ contacts list corresponding to the second ~~identity account~~ identity account of the user such that the single graphical user interface enables the user interacts to interact with the first ~~participant~~ contacts list to communicate with the other users using the first ~~identity account~~ identity account of the user and ~~the user interacts to interact~~ with the second ~~participant~~ contacts list to communicate with ~~either the~~ additional users using the second ~~identity account~~ identity account of the user.

32. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 wherein:  
authenticating the first ~~identity account~~ identity account includes using a first password to authenticate the first ~~identity; account;~~ account; and  
authenticating the second ~~identity account~~ identity account includes using a second password to authenticate the second ~~identity; account.~~ account.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein the first password and the second password are the same.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein the first password and the second password are different.

35. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 wherein:  
authenticating the first ~~identity account~~ identity account includes using a SecureID to authenticate the first ~~identity; account;~~ account; and  
authenticating the second ~~identity account~~ identity account includes using a SecureID to authenticate the second ~~identity; account.~~ account.

36. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first ~~identity account~~ identity account and the second ~~identity account~~ identity account includes using a one-way link

configuration to create the association between the first ~~identity~~ account and the second ~~identity~~.  
account.

37. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first ~~identity~~ account and the second ~~identity~~ account includes using a bi-directional-link configuration to create the association between the first ~~identity~~ account and the second ~~identity~~. account.

38. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first ~~identity~~ account and the second ~~identity~~ account includes using a star-link configuration to create the association between the first ~~identity~~ account and the second ~~identity~~. account.

39. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first ~~identity~~ account and the second ~~identity~~ account includes using a mesh-link configuration to create the association between the first ~~identity~~ account and the second ~~identity~~. account.

40. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 wherein the first ~~identity~~ account is a part of a first domain and the second ~~identity~~ account is a part of a second domain that differs from the first domain.

41. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 further comprising setting preferences for the first ~~identity~~, account, wherein setting the preferences for the first ~~identity~~ account also sets the preferences for the second ~~identity~~. account.

42. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 further comprising:  
setting first preferences for the first ~~identity~~, account; and

setting second preferences for the second ~~identity~~- account.

43. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 wherein the first ~~participant~~ contacts list and the second ~~participant~~ contacts list include one or more common identities listed on both the first ~~participant~~ contacts list and the second ~~participant~~ contacts list.

44. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 wherein the single communications service enables linking multiple ~~identities~~ accounts within the single communications service so as to enable presence of one account to be reflected based on a login of another account of the multiple ~~identities~~- accounts.

45. (Currently amended) A method for enabling instant messaging by a user who has at least two different instant messaging accounts, the method comprising:

displaying, to a user who has both a first instant messaging account and a second instant messaging account, a single instant messaging graphical user interface that includes:

a first instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user and that includes one or more instant messaging contacts that the user has selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list, and

a second instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list that is separate from the first instant messaging participant list, that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, and that includes one or more instant messaging contacts that the user has selected for inclusion in the second instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list;  
receiving an indication of a selection by the user from within the instant messaging graphical user interface of a first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list;



in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging participant contacts list, enabling the user to compose a first instant message to the first instant messaging contact;

based on the selection of the first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging participant contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user, sending the first instant message composed by the user to the first instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the first instant message as having been sent from the first instant messaging account;

receiving an indication of a selection by the user from within the instant messaging graphical user interface of a second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging participant contacts list;

in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging participant contacts list, enabling the user to compose a second instant message to the second instant messaging contact; and

based on the selection of the second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging participant contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, sending the second instant message composed by the user to the second instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the second instant message as having been sent from the second instant messaging account.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 45 further comprising collapsing the first instant messaging participant contacts list within the instant messaging graphical user interface such that the one or more instant messaging contacts that are included in the first instant messaging participant contacts list are not visible within the instant messaging graphical user interface after collapsing the first instant messaging participant contacts list.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 45 further comprising:

enabling the user to add a new instant messaging contact to the first instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user;

enabling the user to add the same new contact to the second instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user;

enabling the user to select, from within the instant messaging graphical user interface, the new instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user;

based on a selection of the new instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user, enabling the user to send a new instant message to the new instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the new instant message as having been sent from the first instant messaging account;

enabling the user to select, from within the instant messaging graphical user interface, the new instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user; and

based on a selection of the new instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, enabling the user to send another new instant message to the new instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the other new instant message as having been sent from the second instant messaging account.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 45 wherein displaying the single instant messaging graphical user interface that includes both the first instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list and the second instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list includes concurrently displaying both the first instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list and the second instant messaging ~~participant~~ contacts list within the single instant messaging graphical user interface on a single display screen.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user are maintained by the same instant messaging provider.

50. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein:  
the communications service is an instant messaging service;  
the several accounts of the user are instant messaging accounts with the instant messaging service;

displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of the several accounts of the user includes displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several instant messaging accounts of the user, each list including other identities with whom the user communicates via instant messaging using the instant messaging account to which the list corresponds;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the several accounts of the user, of a particular source account from which to initiate an electronic communication includes using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the several instant messaging accounts of the user, of a particular source instant messaging account from which to initiate an instant message;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of identities corresponding to the particular source account selected by the user, of an identity to whom to send the electronic communication includes using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of identities corresponding to the particular source instant messaging account selected by the user, of an identity to whom to send the instant message; and

sending the electronic communication to the identity such that the electronic communication is identified to the identity as being sent from the particular source account selected by the user includes sending the instant message to the identity such that the instant message is identified to the identity as being sent from the particular source instant messaging account selected by the user.

51. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein:

the communications service is an instant messaging service;

the first account of the user is a first instant messaging account of the user with the instant messaging service;

the second account of the user is a second instant messaging account of the user with the instant messaging service;

maintaining, for the user a first contacts list corresponding to the first account of the user, includes maintaining, for the user, a first instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the first instant messaging account of the user, the first instant messaging contacts list including one or more instant messaging identities associated with one or more other users and enabling the user to communicate via instant messaging with the other users associated with the instant messaging identities included within the first instant messaging contacts list;

maintaining, for the user, a second contacts list corresponding to the second account of the user, includes maintaining, for the user, a second instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the second instant messaging account of the user, the second instant messaging contacts list being separate from the first instant messaging contacts list, including one or more additional instant messaging identities associated with one or more additional users, and enabling the user to communicate via instant messaging with the additional users associated with the additional instant messaging identities included within the second instant messaging contacts list;

authenticating the first account of the user includes authenticating the first instant messaging account of the user;

authenticating the second account of the user includes authenticating the first instant messaging account of the user;

creating an association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user includes creating an association between the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user; and

the association between the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user in response to authentication of both the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user, the single graphical user interface being configured to accommodate the first instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the second instant messaging account of the user such that the single graphical user interface enables the user to interact with the first instant messaging contacts list to communicate with the other users via instant messaging using the first instant messaging account of the user and to interact with the second instant messaging contacts list to communicate with the additional users via instant messaging using the second instant messaging account of the user.